

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

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COA-02 DLOS-06 OIC-04 DRC-01 /167 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1852

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USCONGEN HAMBURG 240

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD

SUBJECT: MTC: SPECIAL GROUP MEETING ON UNCTAD CODE OF
CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES, FEB. 13-15

REF: USOECD 4013

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL GROUP (SG) IS MEETING FEB 13-15

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TO COORDINATE GROUP B VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

(GENEVA, MARCH 11-29) ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ARE: CARGO-SHARING, ROLE OF OUTSIDERS (INDEPENDENT SHIPPING LINES), INTERVAL BETWEEN FREIGHT RATE INCREASES, DISPUTE-SETTLEMENT MACHINERY (ESPECIALLY MANDATORY CONCILIATION PROCEDURE), AND FINAL CLAUSES OF CONVENTION FOR CODE. MAIN PARTICIPANTS IN DISCUSSIONS ARE: U.K., FRG, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, JAPAN, GREECE, AND U.S., WITH SWEDEN, NORWAY, ITALY AND CANADA PLAYING LESSER ROLES. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST HALF OF MEETING; SECOND HALF WILL BE REPORTED SPETEL. END SUMMARY.

2. CARGO-SHARING: LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF PARTICIPATION IN TRADE REVEALED LITTLE CHANGE FROM POSITIONS TAKEN AT NOVEMBER-DECEMBER CONFERENCE. U.K., SWEDEN, NORWAY, DENMARK, FINLAND, GREECE AND SWITZERLAND REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO BILATERAL-TYPE CARGO-SHARING FORMULAS. FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM AND FRG REMAIN TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE "PRESIDENTS PRINCIPLES" (SEE TD/CODE/CRP.7, DEC 7, 1973). JAPAN AND ITALY INDICATED THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF CARGO-SHARING. U.S. DEL REPORTED U.S. PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME LIMITED FORM OF CARGO-SHARING AND LISTED VARIOUS ELEMENTS ENTERING INTO CONSIDERATION OF U.S. POSITION, WHICH NOT YET FINALIZED. AN EFFORT BY THE NETHERLANDS (DE GROOT) TO DRAFT CARGO-SHARING TEXT THAT WOULD HAVE WIDER ACCEPTANCE IN GROUP B WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. ROLE OF OUTSIDERS: AMONG THOSE WHO SPOKE ON SUBJECT, ONLY U.S., JAPAN, FRG AND NETHERLANDS REMAIN OPPOSED TO PARA 85 OF CODE WHICH WOULD PREVENT MEASURES BY GOVERNMENTS TO PREVENT OUTSIDE COMPETITION. FRG INTRODUCED PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE UNEQUAL TREATMENT BETWEEN CONFERENCE MEMBERS AND INDEPENDENT OPERATORS (OUTSIDERS), WHICH WOULD MAKE MOST OF SECTIONS C AND D OF CODE APPLICABLE TO OUTSIDERS. IT WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY GREECE, CANADA, AND U.K. WHO ARGUED THAT OUTSIDERS SHOULD NOT BE REGULATED. U.S. AND SEVERAL OTHER DELS INDICATED SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TO FRG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSAL.

4. FREIGHTS RATES: CONCERNING INTERVAL BETWEEN GENERAL FREIGHT RATE INCREASES, FRANCE, CANADA, FRG, NETHERLANDS SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM INDICATED THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE 1 OF PARA 64 (GROUP OF 77 AND GROUP D OF TEXT) WHICH INVOLVES 15-MONTH INTERVAL BETWEEN RATE INCREASES) WHEREAS JAPAN, U.K., SWEDEN, NORWAY AND

FINLAND SUPPORTED U.S.-PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE 2 OF PARA
64 WITH THE BRACKET REMOVED FROM THE ESCAPE CLAUSE.

5. IMPLEMENTATION: DISCUSSION OF POLICY ASPECTS OF
SECTION F DISCLOSED THAT ALL OR MOST COUNTRIES ARE
OPPOSED TO INCLUSION OF LOCAL CONCILIATION PROCEDURES
AND WOULD PREFER A SINGLE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
CONCILIATION. JAPAN, FRG AND U.S. SUGGESTED THAT LOCAL
DISPUTES BE LEFT TO NATIONAL REMEDIES. GREECE AND
NORWAY ADVOCATED A SYSTEM WHEREBY CONFERENCE AND LOYALTY
AGREEMENTS WOULD INCLUDE PROCEDURES FOR SETTling LOCAL
DISPUTES. GREECE WILL PREPARE PROPOSAL INCORPORATING
THIS VIEW.
BROWN

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